

JORDAN TIMES

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Pope to visit Poland in June

WARSAW, March 2 (R)—Pope John Paul will visit his native Poland from June 2-10, the first ever visit by a Pope to a communist country, an official statement said here today. The date represents a compromise for the Pontiff, who had hoped to come here for celebrations in May marking the 900th anniversary of the execution of Saint Stanislaw of Krakow by the Polish King Boleslaw the Bold. The Polish government opposed the May visit because it feared the anniversary could inflame delicate church-state relations. During his stay, the Pope will visit Warsaw, the ancient See of Gniezno in Central Poland, the religious centre of Czechoslovakia and Krakow, of which he was formerly archbishop. Church sources have estimated that a million people could turn out at each of the places visited by the Pope. Secret negotiations over the visit have been going on since the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was unexpectedly elected Pope last October.

AMMAN, SATURDAY MARCH 3, 1979 — RABIE TANI 4, 1399

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

In wide-ranging speech

Brezhnev praises Khrushchev's new rulers

WASHINGTON, March 2 (R)—Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev today gave a wide-ranging speech to the Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament, in which he praised the new rulers of Iran and the Soviet Union's role in the Middle East. He also announced that the Soviet Union would provide military aid to the new rulers of Iran.

The speech, culminating in a campaign for Sunday's single-candidate elections to the Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament, had been awaited as likely to produce the most authoritative Kremlin reaction yet to the China-Vietnam conflict. But the president, who returned to Moscow only this week from a prolonged rest on the Black Sea, basically followed the lines of earlier Soviet commitments and took an even less dramatic approach than some of his leadership colleagues.



Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (left) talking to President Carter Thursday night in the White House's Oval Office. Mr. Begin arrived in Washington Thursday evening for crucial talks with American leaders on the deadlocked Middle East peace negotiations. (AP Wirephoto)

Sharp differences persist in Mideast Carter-Begin talks

WASHINGTON, March 2 (R)—President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin resumed critical talks today on the stalled Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations with sharp differences persisting despite an unexpectedly friendly start to their discussions.

Israeli officials said they were extremely pleased by the atmosphere at their first meeting last night and again in this morning's talks. But they cautioned that there were no grounds for optimism so far that the two leaders would be able to break the deadlock in the peace treaty negotiations. U.S. officials were equally cautious, saying differences between the two leaders were so wide that no one could predict success.

President Carter and Mr. Begin were smiling and seemed completely at ease as they ended a meeting that lasted almost three hours this morning. They made no statements to waiting reporters. Mr. Begin arrived yesterday in an unyielding mood, saying the negotiations with Egypt had reached a stage of deep crisis and "we cannot be pressed into signing a sham document."

But after his meeting last night with President Carter, the Israeli leader said he felt encouraged and "there had not been a difficult moment" in the discussion. Officials said the change in the prime minister's tone apparently reflected the rapport he had established with Mr. Carter and the fact that a widely predicted confrontation had not taken place.

Their advice to reporters was that they should not get carried away by the prime minister's upbeat remarks. Mr. Begin left for a working luncheon with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at the State Department after conferring with the president at the White House.

U.S. sources said much of this morning's meeting was taken up by Mr. Begin reciting from memory the history of the talks he held at the Camp David summit with Mr. Carter and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat last September.

It was Mr. Begin's contention that later Egyptian demands violated the undertakings reached at Camp David on terms for an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty which he and President Sadat had hoped to sign by Christmas last year.

President Carter and Mr. Begin signalled serious disagreements this week over the peace negotiations, with the United States reportedly backing Egypt's insistence on changes in a draft treaty with Israel.

Mr. Carter said he was disgusted with the deadlock because in his view the differences were insignificant. But Mr. Begin said Egyptian demands would turn the proposed peace treaty into a war treaty and he warned he would not submit to any U.S. pressure for concessions.

One of the chief problems in the peace negotiations is President Sadat's call, which Israel has refused to accept, for revisions allowing him to honour commitments to go to the defence of other Arab countries.

Another is a demand, also opposed by Mr. Begin, for a timetable for granting self-rule to the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The talks between President Carter and Mr. Begin were arranged suddenly after the U.S. leader made an unsuccessful effort to convene another Camp David summit this week, with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil representing President Sadat.

The Israeli cabinet rejected Mr. Carter's invitation but agreed that Mr. Begin should fly to the United States and hold bilateral talks at the White House.

Vietnam rejects China's peace offer

BANGKOK, March 2 (R)—Vietnam tonight officially rejected China's offer of negotiations to end their border war as long as Chinese troops remained in Vietnam and demanded their "immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal."

Only when these demands are met will the Vietnamese side be ready to negotiate with China to restore normal relations between the two countries, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said in a note to China.

In a note delivered to the Vietnamese Embassy in Peking last night, China had suggested negotiations at the vice-foreign minister level to end the conflict.

But the Vietnamese reply, quoted by Radio Hanoi, said talks could not be held until the Chinese pulled out of Vietnam.

Radio Hanoi did not say how the note had been delivered to the Chinese.

The radio, which also claimed fresh battlefield successes against Chinese troops in its northern province of Lang Son, earlier derided Peking's proposal as an attempt "to fool the public and cover up its war intensification."

On the battle front, there were no fresh reports of major clashes today and the apparent lull was now in its second day, Indochina analysts in Bangkok said.

The last battle report from either side came yesterday from Hanoi, which said fierce fighting was going on in Vietnam's north-eastern Lang Son province.

But the analysts in Bangkok said both sides appeared to have dug into fixed positions around the province's capital, 135 kilometres north of Hanoi, and it was unclear whose forces controlled the town itself.

Much the same picture prevailed around two other north-eastern capitals, Cao Bang and Mung Cai, and there were also no reports of major activity in other border areas of Vietnam, they added.

The next move may be up to the Vietnamese with the possibility of throwing regular troops into the fray to try to dislodge the Chinese, they said.

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North, South Yemen agree to cease fire

BAGHDAD, March 2 (R)—North and South Yemen have agreed to a ceasefire in their border war from 0600 GMT tomorrow, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency said the Yemen leaders had agreed to consider special arrangements dealing with the withdrawal of troops from the border region at an Arab League emergency meeting in Kuwait on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Jordan News Agency (JNA) reported that South Yemeni Communications Minister Mahmoud Abdullah Oshaish arrived in Amman tonight from Damascus with a message to His Majesty King Hussein from South Yemeni President Abdul Fattah Ismail on latest developments in the border fighting between the two countries.

JNA quoted Mr. Oshaish as expressing his hope that the North-South dispute "will be settled as a result of mediation efforts exerted by Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi envoys."

Mr. Oshaish handed a message in Damascus earlier today from President Ismail to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The mediation efforts were conducted by Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim, Syria's Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya and Iraqi Planning Minister Adnan Hussein.

Mr. Ibrahim carried a message from King Hussein to the presidents of the two Yemens, while Mr. Shayya and Mr. Hussein carried a joint message from Iraqi President Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr and President Assad.

A protracted political feud between Soviet-backed South Yemen and its northern neighbour, which has the support

of Saudi Arabia and the United States, erupted into fighting a week ago. The two sides accused each other of launching border attacks.

South Yemen has said the fighting was between North Yemeni government troops and North Yemeni nationalists opposed to the government in Sanaa.

North Yemen said on Wednesday that South Yemeni forces had captured three of its border towns—Qaataba, Moryes and Harib—and that repeated attacks on one North Yemeni provincial capital, Al Baida, had been repulsed.

Saudi Arabia, attempting to mediate in the dispute, offered a four-point peace plan to the two sides on Tuesday, including an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of border forces.

But South Yemen yesterday accused the Saudi government of being biased in the conflict.

Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry cancelled all military leave on Wednesday as a result of the border fighting on its southern flank.

In Bahrain, Arab League Secretary-General Mahmoud Riad today urged Arab governments to abide by any resolution the organisation might adopt next week on the conflict between North and South Yemen.

"Fighting between the two Yemens threatens Arab security," he said on arrival in Bahrain from Riyadh where he conferred with Saudi Arabian leaders.

Mr. Riad will be going to Kuwait for Sunday's emergency session of the League which was called by North Yemen to hear its complaint against South Yemen over the border war.

Mr. Riad told the Gulf News

Continued on page 3

Israel to get \$1.78b in U.S. arms aid

WASHINGTON—Israel is earmarked to receive a total of \$1.785 billion in U.S. military assistance next year, more than the military aid proposed for all the Arab aid recipients combined. Israel accounts for 42 per cent of the Carter administration's proposed \$4.235 billion military aid budget for the 1981 fiscal year, presented to Congress for approval this week.

The Israeli allocations include \$1,000 million in military sales credits (half of which will not have to be repaid), and \$785 million in "security supporting assistance."

In all, 13 countries in the area designated by the State Department as the "Near East and South Asia" account for 69 per cent of the global military aid programme.

Of the Arab recipients, Egypt is designated to receive \$750 million, Jordan \$218 million (including a contribution towards the Maqarin Dam project on the Yarmouk River in the north), Syria \$60 million and Lebanon \$32.5 million.

Presenting the budget to Congress, Mrs. Lucy Wilson Benson, under-secretary of state for security assistance, said that "traditional financial support of Egypt from Arab countries may become more uncertain in the future, depending on reactions to Egypt's negotiations with Israel."

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Qadhafi gives up post in Libya's ruling body

LONDON, March 2 (R)—Libyan Leader Muammar Al Qadhafi has given up his post as secretary-general of a top ruling body, the General People's Congress, the Jamahiriyyah News Agency said.

The move, part of a series of changes, which the agency said aimed at distributing power more widely among the people, apparently means that Col. Qadhafi will continue as de facto head of state.

The five-man General People's Congress Secretariat took over from the disbanded Revolutionary Command Council in 1977. The council, headed by Col. Qadhafi, had run the country since King Idris was overthrown in a

coup in 1969.

The agency, in a dispatch from Tripoli, said the new secretary-general is Abdul Ati Al Abeldi, previously first secretary of the larger General People's Committee, which acts as a cabinet.

The changes were made at a special session of the General People's Congress, which got under way in Tripoli yesterday.

The agency said the session would be historic because "the separation of authority from the revolution will be carried out, and the revolutionary leadership will give up its conventional administrative responsibility of the general secretariat."

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Iranian Kurdistan: Will 'de facto' control lead to autonomy?

By John Rogers

MAHABAD, Iran—The Iranian Kurds, a fiercely independent people living along the Iraqi border, are capitalising on their new freedom after the anti-Shah revolution to press demands for autonomy.

But their leaders strongly reject any suggestion that they want to split off Kurdish areas as a separate state.

"What we want is to have our national rights within the framework of the Iranian state. We are against any sort of separatism," says Ghani Bloorian, deputy chairman of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

He is based in this town, 70 kilometres from the Iraqi frontier, centre of an 11-month separatist republic in 1946 in the confused aftermath of World War Two.

The Kurds span five countries—Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria and the Soviet Union. In Iran, there are five to six million, according to Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou, 48, another KDP leader, recently returned from 20 years in exile. This figure, double the former administration's estimates, means that one in every seven Iranians is a Kurd.

Intensive discussions with Kurdish leaders here reveal

a clear strategy—putting pressure on Tehran to concede their demands, while making unspecified threats about the future if these are not met. The ultimate threat, which leaders are only hinting at, is of guerrilla action by the Kurds.

Kurdish militia are already cooperating in the running of the army barracks here, taken over on Feb. 18 by its officers and men, and now commanded by a colonel, Parvaz Razempour, of Kurdish origin. They also surrounded three other army barracks in Kurdistan province for several days "to protect them against counter-revolutionaries."

The Kurds are proud of having played an important role locally in the Anti-Shah revolution, and say they are strongly backing national leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mahabad itself is, however, run by a Kurdish revolutionary committee—one of the few towns in Iran without a representative of Ayatollah Khomeini in charge—though they liaise with the central Tehran revolutionary committee.

One of the KDP's main demands is control of all barracks in the area by a Kurdish political-military council.

Between 80 and 85 per cent of the Kurds are Sunni Moslems, whereas the vast majority of Iranians are Shi'ites. However, Kurdish leaders do not regard this as

significant in the context of their political struggle.

"The question of getting autonomy is nationalistic. It has nothing to do with religion," says Sheikh Ezzedin Hosseini, the religious leader of Mahabad who is also widely regarded as the chief political leader of the Kurdish autonomy movement.

Sheikh Hosseini held talks last week with a delegation rushed from Tehran after the Mahabad barracks was taken over. He is planning to go to see Ayatollah Khomeini, and to send a large representative Kurdish delegation to Tehran for further talks with the provisional government shortly.

But right now, the grey-bearded, white-turbaned religious chief is pessimistic. "I am afraid the government will not give full autonomy to Kurdistan," Sheikh Hosseini said. "I do not think the government will accept a federal system."

Sheikh Hosseini reckons 80 per cent of the Kurds support the view that he and the secular, socialist-orientated KDP leaders are expounding. And he also supports similar oghs for other "nationalities" in sensitive border areas such as the Azerbaijanis, on the Turkish border, and the Baluchis in the south, bordering Pakistan.

But young leftists, proponents of "armed struggle" as the way of achieving political ends, would happily fight for the cause if told to by respected leaders. The KDP

leaders, however, do not regard force as necessary. The central government in Tehran has not commented publicly on the Kurdish demands, saying only that attempts at separatism would be crushed.

The Kurdish leaders concede, however, that if the government resisted demands for Kurdish autonomy, then extremists would have more scope. "We are doing everything to prevent this," Mr. Ghassemlou said.

According to a local teacher, young men would take to the mountains and launch an armed guerrilla campaign if the central government rejected autonomy outright.

Because they do not want themselves branded as separatists, the KDP leaders are refraining from discussing borders for an autonomous Kurdistan. "We don't draw a line, but we have criteria—economic, historical, national and the will of the people," Mr. Ghassemlou said.

But they acknowledge that the sort of autonomous state they want, within a federal Iran, would include the present Kurdistan province, Kermanshah, Ilam and the southern, predominantly Kurdish part of West Azerbaijan province.

This means a large tract of land flanking the Iraqi border, about 140,000 square kilometres in area. Right now, in Iranian Kurdistan, the Kurds appear to have achieved a measure of what they want, de facto control.

Reuter

ON PAGE 4 TODAY... A photo-feature by Marianne Pearson on the Queen Alia Society for the Hearing Impaired on page 4 of yesterday's Jordan Times was inadvertently spoiled by a mechanical failure. We are reprinting the entire feature in today's issue, with apologies to all concerned.

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Whose names will adorn Jordan's streets?

Editor's note: This is the last of a three-part series on a nationwide campaign currently underway to re-zone and code Jordan's cities, streets and homes.

By Alan Martiny
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—The city which has worked the fastest in numbering and naming its zones, streets and houses in accordance with the national programme is the Municipality of Amman. The city has already been divided into zones; most of the streets have been named and numbered; most of the houses have been numbered and many of the number plaques for houses and streets have already been fixed.

"The municipality set up a special committee emanating from the municipal council about two years ago which has been responsible for the numbering and naming project," Mr. Ma'an Abu Nuwar, Mayor of Amman Municipality, told the Jordan Times. "They have named most of the streets and numbered most of the houses and now we have a contract with a local company to make the plates for naming the streets. The work is going fine. It has been hindered in the past by finances but I hope an acceleration will take place soon."

One of the first major changes to take place in Amman Municipality as a result of adopting the new system was a change in the municipal organisation. "In the past the city was divided into six areas but the present council decided to divide it into nine," he said.

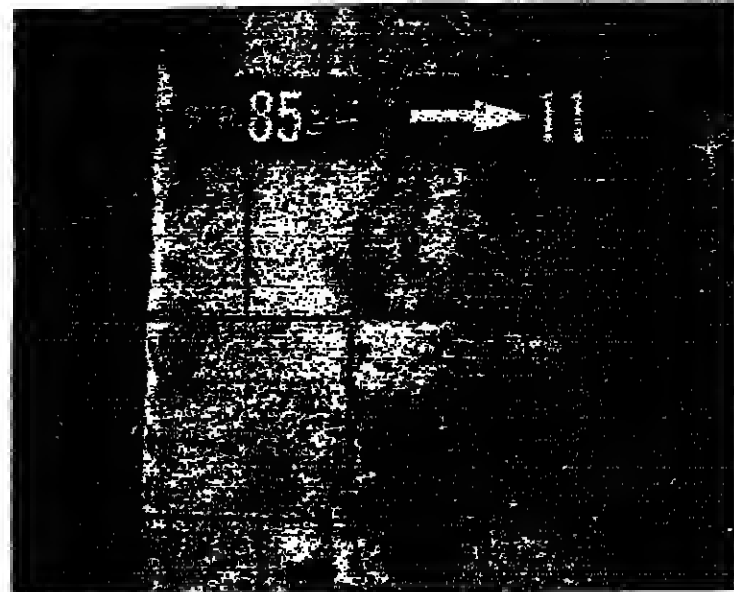
These nine areas have also been named. Number one is the city area, number two is the Basman area; 3 is Ain Gazal; 4 is Al Nasr; 5 is Yarmouk; 6 is Ras Al Ain; 7 is Badr; 8 is Zahran and 9 is Abdali area.

"We are hoping that these areas will be self-contained administratively and that this division is going to be coordinated with the posts, telegraphs, transportation, house numbering, civil defence services, police services and every other service in the city," he said.

Each of these areas has also been divided into units or quarters. These vary from four to eight depending on the size, shape and urbanisation. The central city area for example, has eight. These units also have numbers and names.

Recognisable to most is the Abdali area, coded 9. It contains six units: 91 is for Jabal Luweibdeh, 92 Jabal Hussein, 93 Shmeisani, 94 Sports City, 95 Al Dahia and 96 Al Qatana. In total Amman has 46 units.

In the first part of this article we dealt mainly with the numbering aspect of the project. But as the system gets down to the local level naming becomes more important. As a matter of fact, the numbering system has come under attack from some who feel it is too complicated and cannot be related to the daily life of the citizen. Mr. Jurkowski agrees that human



A sample street numbering plate. The arrow indicates that the numbering continues from number 11 in that direction. The street name plates have not been completed yet. They will include the name of the street in English and Arabic.

beings are more interested in names. "Figures seem dead. So we leave the figures for the machines and use the names," he said.

"We cooperate closely with the Department of Numbering and Naming to adopt and implement the numbering system," Mr. Kamel Abu Jaber, Head of the committee and Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration at the University of Jordan, said. "But in terms of naming, that is our responsibility only."

"On the committee are people of all walks of life, but principally people who are aware of our culture, history, customs and habits, because street naming is not a purely technical matter. It has something to do with the culture, people, history and aspirations."

"We have concentrated on using the names of people who have done great deeds either for Jordan, the Arabs or the Islamic World as a whole. We have used the names of people in the Hashemite family, former prime ministers, former mayors, great poets, literati and commanders," he said.

A policy of the committee is, however, not to name anyone who is alive either within or without of Jordan. Naming also includes names of Islamic countries and Islamic cities.

The committee has been meeting for about two years now and has named about 2,500 streets. "We still have about 1,500 streets left to name," Mr. Khalid N. Bourini, Chief Engineer for the Amman Urban Regional Planning Group, said.

"At the parcel level we have already fixed the number plates in several parts of Amman, like Jabal Hussein, Jabal Luweibdeh, Jabal Amman and Shmeisani," he said.

The operation of fixing the plates is being done by the municipality staff. "Roughly we have about 100,000 existing parcels in Amman," Mr. Bourini said. "But the city is growing very rapidly. We expect not less than 100 additional parcels each day. But in our coding system we have already placed for the expected parcels." One task which everyone in the

CITY OF AMMAN

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Numbering Streets

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1 2

Amman Scene

filed for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of March 3-9)

EXHIBITS

TUESDAY, March 3: "The Best of Laterna" titles a collection of oils, watercolours, graphics and sculptures—selected as the outstanding works in an ongoing exhibition and sale at the Arab Cultural Centre. Each work will go on view at the Arab Cultural Centre. A 6 p.m. reception opens the show in continue through day. Each work has been donated by a Syrian artist, from all objects sold at Laterna Restaurant are to go to the Syrian artists. Naim Ismael and Loue Khayali, who the works in the Arab Cultural Centre exhibit have been sold, many more are available at Laterna Restaurant is handling the benefit sale without charging service fees. A just written by Tarek Sharif, director of the Arab Cultural Centre, entitled "Naim Ismael," will be introduced at the exhibit. aperback presents a biography of Dr. Ismael who was director of the Fine Arts Directorate and prints of his works from 1943 his death last January. In addition to his colorful primitives abstracts, Dr. Ismael created the mosaic on the facade of the Workers Building (across the street from the Meridien) and another mosaic at Tabqa Dam. Proceeds from the sale as well as the art sale, will benefit Dr. Ismael's widow and children.

WEDNESDAY, March 6: More than 60 well-known French artists are represented in an exhibit titled "Lithographies Contemporaines" at the French Cultural Centre. Hours: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, March 6: "Women in Everyday Life" titles a photo exhibit on view through March 19 at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre.

FRIDAY, March 8: Revolutionary themes will highlight a collection of paintings by 17 Syrian artists opening with a 6 p.m. reception at Al Sha'b Gallery.

SATURDAY, March 8: There are still four days left to observe some of the most representative works of contemporary Iraqi artists at Al Sha'b Gallery. The bronze sculptures of Ismael Fatah are superb things; the wood sculptures of Talal Isa, a recent graduate of the Syrian Arts Academy of Damascus University. One of the best examples of the modern Iraqi school is a monumental abstract landscape by Saadi Abbas. The mixed media technique of Al Jumaiah is arresting for the number of elements he works human faces sculpted in copper mixed with plaster, oils, and fabric. The large pastel abstracts of Shakir Hasan are vibrant of Paul Klee; whereas Ahmed Awadi works in a style which he terms modern Arabic. Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. to Wednesday.

An exhibition of books published by the Spanish-Arab Cultural Centre of Madrid is on view through Wednesday at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The extensive collection, representing six series: contemporary Arab authors, classic Spanish, classic Arabic, national anthologies, lexicons and special studies on history, economics, literature, sociology and anthropology, philosophy and religion, the arts and archaeology and bibliographies will become part of the Spanish Cultural Centre's library which already houses 6,000 texts (please refer to the tourist section of this column for additional details).

CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, March 6: Professors and advanced students of the Damascus Institute of Music will perform an evening of classical music at 8 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre. The event will mark Syria's March Revolution International Women's Day.

LECTURE

WEDNESDAY, March 6: A lecture on the International Day of Women will be held for 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre, speakers to be announced later.

THEATRE

WEDNESDAY, March 5: "Hands," an original play written by Dorina Ionesco of Romania and adapted to Arabic by Tayseer Hilal will open the new season of the Syrian Puppet Theatre. Performances are presented each school day at 6 p.m. at Al Houria on Baghdad Street.

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMMES

WEDNESDAY, March 7: "Toulouse-Lautrec," Part II, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French).

THURSDAY, March 9: A theatrical production, entitled "Festivals of the East," will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French).

FILMS

WEDNESDAY, March 5 and MONDAY, March 5: "Aloise," a 1975 film by Liliane Dermadeo starring Delphine Seyrig and Jean-Pierre L  aud, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

WEDNESDAY, March 4: "Beethoven: Days of a Life," will be shown at 3:30 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German, Arabic sub-titles).

WEDNESDAY, March 5: "Let Us Live Until Monday" is the title of a film to be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre. A Russian film (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

WEDNESDAY, March 6 and WEDNESDAY, March 7: Two award-winning British documentaries (in colour) will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall of the British Cultural Centre. "The World of the Elephant" is the title of one selection showing spectacular photography depicting the adaptation of animals of extreme desert conditions. "Till I End My Song" is the title of the second film showing the River Thames and its associations. Reservations to be obtained in advance from the British Cultural Centre.

WEDNESDAY, March 7: "A Sack and Two Suitcases" titles a film to be shown at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

THURSDAY, March 8: "L'Amour L'Apr  s-Midi," a 1972 film directed by Eric Rohmer starring Bernard Verlay and Zouzou is to be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

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Mrs. G. Martin, P.O. Box 4277, Amman, Jordan.

French ambassador's wife decorated by Queen Noor

By Janet Shami

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 2—In the early hours of Thursday afternoon, Princess Majda, wife of Prince Raad Ibn Zeid, was busy giving last minute instructions to the waiters who stood attentively around the dining hall table at Prince Raad's residence.

The preparations were for a special occasion. That afternoon Mrs. Ute Charpy, the wife of the French ambassador to Jordan was going to be decorated by the Order of Independence medal of the 2nd order. His Majesty King Hussein had delegated Her Majesty Queen Noor to act on his behalf. The colour scheme of the hall was based on turquoise dictated by a large painting by Princess Fahr-el-Nissa (internationally known artist and mother of Prince Raad) which covered the main wall, and accentuated by the velvet table cover on the long and elegantly set dining table.

Queen Noor arrived promptly at 4 p.m. and after greeting the guests, presented the medal to Mrs. Charpy. Her speech was spontaneous and to the point. Her Majesty said the medal was a symbolical gesture to thank Mrs. Charpy for her wholehearted efforts in helping the poor and the sick in Jordan.

Mrs. Charpy had worked in four different societies simultaneously during her four-year stay in Jordan: the Save The Children Fund, the Summer Camp Society, the Cancer Society and Al Hussein Society for Child Welfare.

This particular party was given in her honour by Princess Majda in her capacity as the chairperson of the committee of the Al-Husseini Society for Child Welfare. Most of the guests were closely connected with that society. They were either the members of the committee or the supporters of the society.

Her Highness Princess Basma arrived at the party soon after the guest of honour, and stayed till the serving of the tea was over. Her usual modest manner enchanted the guests, once again. Princess Fahr-el-Nissa, Princess Wijdan Ali, Princess Feyrouza Assem, Mrs. Hind Nasser, Mrs. Nesvet Shaker, Mrs. Badran, Mrs. Amer

Federation of Chambers of Commerce meets in Aqaba

AOABA, March 2 (JNA)—The periodical meeting of the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce was held here today to discuss support for the federation and to evaluate activities that were completed during the last three months.

The meeting reviewed the items on the agenda which included, among other things, discussing an amendment of chambers of commerce fees, reducing of water and power prices for hotels and exempting the chambers of commerce from customs duties and other taxes. The Vice-President of the federation Mr. Zuhair Asfour presented the federation cup to the president of the Aqaba Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the chamber's efforts in serving the local society.

Khammash and several ambassadors' wives were among the guests.

After the presentation of the medal, Mrs. Hind Nasser commented: "We were lucky to have Mrs. Charpy in Jordan for several years. She is the kind of person who would do good in any community she would live in."

The French ambassador is returning to Paris to work in close contact with the minister of foreign affairs of France; and it is already arranged that Mrs. Charpy will be doing all she can to help Madame Poncet, the French foreign minister's wife, as a social worker.

Mrs. Charpy says: "I am very sad to leave Jordan. My husband and I have visited every corner of this country, appreciating the archaeological sites, and admiring the great efforts of the Jordanian people to better themselves and their country. Through my work, I came into contact with all kinds of people and became attached to many of them."

German born Mrs. Charpy is very modest about her hard work in four societies which she carried out alongside her duties as an ambassador's wife and as the mother of a lively boy who grew up from the age of nine to thirteen during his parents' stay in Jordan.

Mrs. Charpy says simply: "Anyone who wants to work and help can find the time."

Continued from page 1

Yemen

Agency that he would discuss the Yemen conflict with the Bahrain Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Muharak Al Khalifa.

The Kuwait newspaper Al Qabas reported today that the League meeting might decide on creating permanent observation posts to prevent further border fighting between the two Yemens.

In Cairo, official sources said today Egypt is to make its position known on the conflict during the Arab League meeting on Sunday. Egypt has strong ties with North Yemen and has more sympathy with the government in Sanaa which has supported President Anwar Sadat's Middle East peace moves, the sources said.

The Egyptians severed relations with the Marxist government in Aden soon after President Sadat visited occupied Jerusalem in November 1977. The move was in reaction to South Yemen's sharp criticism of his peace overtures to Israel.

But the sources said Cairo had not officially aligned itself with either of the two Yemens in the current border conflict, and had not publicly condemned the fighting.

President Sadat received two North Yemeni envoys on Wednesday who informed him of developments.

The official Egyptian Middle East News Agency reported that Vice-President Hosni Mubarak had received a reply to a letter he sent to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia on the border clashes. The contents of the letters were not disclosed.

Brezhnev

and Vietnamese border areas. Mr. Brezhnev described the Chinese move into Vietnam two



weeks ago as "an unprecedented, bandit attack" by which Peking leaders "have finally unveiled before the whole world the treacherous, aggressive essence of their great-power policy."

"Now everyone sees that it is this very policy which at the present time is the most serious threat to peace in the entire world," he declared.

"Now the whole danger of any form of complicity in this policy can be seen more clearly than ever," the 72-year-old president and party chief declared in a clear reference to the U.S. and other western countries developing links with China.

"The Soviet people, together with the peace-loving peoples of the whole world, demands the immediate end of the Chinese aggression against Vietnam and the immediate withdrawal of all the interventionist forces to the last soldier from Vietnamese soil," he said.

"Our friendship with fraternal Vietnam has been tested by deeds for many years. In this difficult hour for the Vietnamese people, we are in complete solidarity with them."

"And no-one should have any doubt: The Soviet Union is true to the treaty of friendship and cooperation that binds our countries together."

"The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is waging a just, noble struggle. On its side are honest and peace-loving people throughout the world. That is why the cause of Vietnam cannot be vanquished and the plans of the aggressor are doomed to failure."

But Mr. Brezhnev did not take up accusations by Soviet press commentators over the past few days that Washington was an effective accomplice in China's move against Vietnam.

Clubs, Societies, Sports Groups—let us know what you are doing

Our "What's going on" section needs YOUR help if it is going to be a success. It's the news of your clubs, your societies, your meetings and outings that are open to the public which appear in "What's going on." Help us to help you publicize your public events. Charities, bazaars, school open days, concerts, commercial exhibitions—our readers are interested in your events. Please write us at P.O. Box 6716, telephone 67171 or even call in at our offices on the Amman-Swedia road between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and tell us what's going on. The Jordan Times will publish free listings on the day of the event.

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will be moderate with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba Gulf the weather will be dusty with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Temperatures	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	8	19
Aqaba	13	29
Jordan Valley	13	25
Deserts	9	22

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Deaf children get another chance

Text and photos
by Marianne Pearson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—"We are off to a good start," said Miss Laurice Hlass, executive secretary of the Queen Alia Society for the Hearing Impaired. "Only a little over a year ago the Society was founded."

The Queen Alia Society was officially registered with the Ministry of Labour and Department of Social Affairs at the end of January 1978. Today 16 teachers of the deaf are being trained at its new Centre. An agreement was made with the government to run jointly a centre for the deaf in Ruseifeh.

"The trainers are three Italian experts," Miss Hlass said. "They are teaching theory with the help of two Jordanian translators who know Italian. To provide trainees with practical experience there are three classes, with a total of 20 hearing-impaired children. Eventually as teachers are trained we will expand the Centre so that we will be able to teach 100 children, boarding and day students, up to

the age of 16.

"Jordanians have been very generous—they responded beautifully both in terms of money and kind to help us start off. Arab and other embassies are enthusiastic. We have already heard from the Kuwait embassy which would like to help. The British are sending an expert on a two weeks' exploratory visit to see what we need. Last summer the Italian government sent us an authority on teaching the deaf to study our needs. They have sent three experts and also equipment to start us off."

"Last month we inaugurated a six-month training course. Later we will choose some of the trainees to send to Italy for specialised training. We have long lists of children who need help, but first we have to train the teachers," Miss Hlass said.

An exact census of the deaf in Jordan has not been completed, but the number of hearing-impaired people who might profit by the work of the Centre is estimated to be high. Eventually the Centre plans to use mobile units to reach the hearing-impaired in remote villages.

In Amman there are two

schools for the deaf—Al Raja'a, a private school, and Al Amal, a government institution in Al Quaismeb. Each has two teachers being trained at the Queen Alia Centre. In Zerka there is also a public school for the deaf, and in Salt there is a missionary school for the deaf.

"The Centre has a harmonious relationship with the Department of Social Welfare. Our government board is made up of three members from the Society and three from the Department. We have added two other members to the board—the Ministry of Health physician who specializes in ear and throat problems and the Mayor of Ruseifeh," Miss Hlass said.

Two members of the Society represent it on the Queen Alia Fund for Social Service, presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, which coordinates work for the deaf in Jordan: Mrs. Hanan Baha'uddin Tougan, the Society's president, and Miss Hlass.

Teachers at the Centre are civil servants paid by the Department of Social Affairs. To get well-

qualified people, the Society pays them an additional 40 per cent above their basic salary.

"We are ambitious," Miss Hlass said. "We would like, hopefully, to embark on the bigger project that Queen Alia herself had wanted to do in Jordan. She had seen the Children's Hearing and Speech Centre in Washington, D.C., that is for diagnosis, treatment and care of the deaf. She was enthusiastic about having something like that in Jordan."

"She invited a team from that centre to come here and discuss the possibility of it. They found that it could be done. It's a very big project and involves a great deal of fund-raising. This would provide a service not only to the hearing impaired in Jordan, but throughout the Middle East. The King is interested in proceeding with this larger project."

"Queen Alia had apparently known a child, the daughter of one of her friends, who suffered from a hearing handicap. She was always keen that something be done for these children. She felt that they should be given care to prepare them for a good life, a decent and constructive life."



After a morning at the Centre students await their bus on its return steps. Currently only children from three years of age to six who live in the Ruseifeh area have been admitted. Their uniform is green trousers and a red cardigan with the Queen Alia school symbol on a patch. A closed ear with an olive branch representing hope.

Three generations are involved with work for the deaf. Mrs. Hanan Baha'uddin Tougan, mother of the late Queen Alia and president of the Queen Alia Society for the Hearing Impaired, in the Centre's visitors reception room sits under the portrait of her granddaughter Princess Haya, appointed honorary president of the Society with the permission of her father, H.M. King Hussein.



Trainees at the Centre learn to use equipment to check the degree of the students' hearing impairment. The sound-proofed room in which a teacher supervises the testing of a young student and the audiometry equipment, a gift of the Italian government, is ideal for diagnostic purposes.



Mr. Ribhi Jarrar, a 1978 graduate of the University of Jordan with a bachelor's degree in education and psychology, is the only male trainee at the Centre. His young pupil adds the dimension of practical

experience to that of theory for the trainees. The 20 children enrolled at the Centre help to teach the teachers as they learn to adapt themselves to a hearing world.

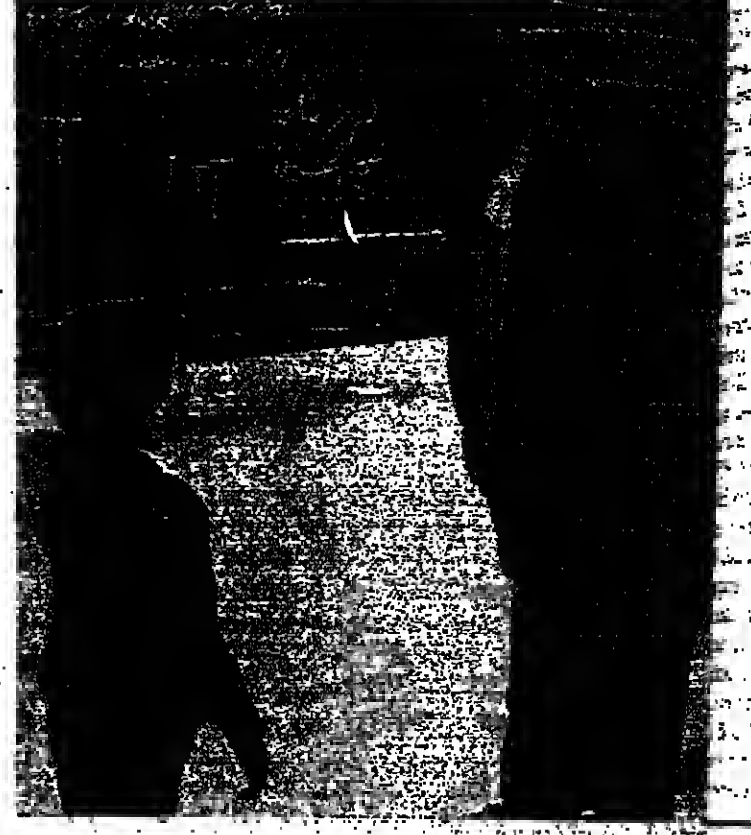


Members of the pilot classes in front of the new Centre in Ruseifeh. Last Sunday His Majesty King Hussein formally inaugurated the institution, with Queen Noor and Princess Haya attending the ceremonies.

Although hearing-impaired children require an exceptional amount of individual attention in learning to communicate, they need the same toys to manipulate as their hearing counterparts. At the Centre they are encouraged to use them and to enjoy them.



An agreement with the Italian government got the Centre for the Hearing Impaired off to a good start. Last month teaching of the teachers began with Giuseppe La Macchia (left) teaching phonetics; Piccolo Nicola (centre), psychology and education; and Beccia Matteo (right), diagnostic work.



Vowels are the same, Arabic or Italian. Mr. Giuseppe La Macchia, Italian expert in the teaching of phonetics, coaches a young student in the pronunciation of an "e" sound. A Jordanian interpreter repeats his message in Arabic when he or one of the other Italian lecturers gives lectures to the teacher trainees at the Centre.



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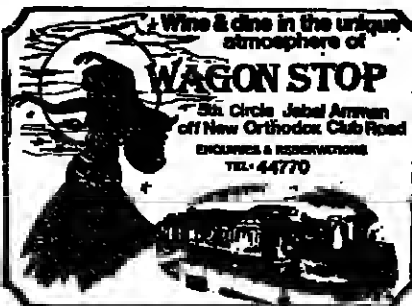
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Spain's ruling party comes out on top in nationwide election

MADRID, March 2 (R) -- The ruling centrists beat the opposition socialists in Spain's second general election since the death of General Francisco Franco, but the result made little difference to the big party power balance.

Interior Minister Rodolfo Martín Villa, quoting early today from "almost definitive" results, said the Democratic Centre Union (UCD) Party of Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez had won about 170 seats in the Congress, the key lower house of parliament, against about 116 for the Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE).

The percentage share of the vote—34.6 for the UCD and 29.3 for the PSOE—was almost identical to the result of the June 1977 general election. Spain's first free ballot since the 1936-39 civil war.

Mr. Martín Villa put the Communist Party in third place with 25 Congress seats, ahead of the moderate Catalan Nationalists with ten. The conservative Democratic Coalition (CD) and the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) both had eight.

The interior minister's figure for UCD seats would put the party six short of an absolute majority in the Congress. In the last elections they were ten short, but managed to govern with the tacit support of the socialists and communists.

Socialist support disappeared with the passage into law of Spain's new democratic constitution, which replaced the authoritarian dictates of General Franco. The constitution came into effect at the end of December, three years after Mr. Franco's death.

The result of yesterday's poll, in which an estimated 31 per cent of the 26 million electorate abstained, poses the question—can the UCD continue to govern alone or will it have to form a coalition?

UCD officials said before the

election that if the ruling party obtained upwards of 150 seats, it would seek parliamentary deals with one or other of the nationalist groups to push through legislation.

But yesterday's vote showed that this might not be too easy. Both the moderate Basque and Catalan parties held their own, gaining a total of 18 seats, according to Mr. Martín Villa's estimation.

But what was new was the impressive showing of the far-left Basque nationalists, who were expected to win a total of four seats. Three of these went to Herri Batasuna—"Union of the people"—in the Basque language—a party backed by the Basque guerrilla organisation ETA.

ETA is waging a bloody campaign for the total independence of the Basque country from Spain and has claimed responsibility for 19 political murders this year.

The UCD has shown no great enthusiasm for granting the Basque country extensive autonomy, a move it fears could provoke unrest in Spain's conservative armed forces. This could make even an informal parliamentary agreement with the moderate nationalists a difficult business.

The alternative might be to make a deal with the democratic coalition of former Francoist minister Mr. Manuel Fraga Iribarne, which appeared to have emerged battered and weakened from the election.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. Suarez will try to woo Mr. Fraga into the UCD camp, or whether he will seek temporary alliances with the nationalists.

Turkish envoy hopes to secure aid for economy

ANKARA, March 2 (R) -- Turkish Finance Minister Ziya Muezzinoglu left today for Paris to persuade Western governments to provide Turkey's battered economy with urgent cash aid.

Mr. Muezzinoglu is to meet Mr. Emile van Lennep, secretary-general of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), who has



Sculptor works on Einstein

NEW YORK -- Sculptor Robert Berks studies a small model for reference as he works on his huge statue of Albert Einstein at his home. When finally cast in bronze, the artwork will weigh 300 tons. It is to be unveiled in April at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington on the 100th anniversary of the birth of the famous physicist. Born in Germany, Mr. Einstein became an American citizen in 1940. He died in 1955. (ICA photo)

Ugandan town said taken by rebels

NAIROBI, March 2 (R) -- Fighting was reported today in the high eastern Ugandan town of Tororo and refugees said it had been taken over by troops rebelling against President Idi Amin.

It was the first reported outbreak of fighting outside the southwestern region of Uganda, where an invasion force seeking to oust President Amin has occupied a wide swathe of land.

Ugandan exile sources in Nairobi said Tororo, a few kilometres from the Kenyan border, had been occupied by units of the air and seaborne battalion

based there, which decided yesterday to join other rebellious military units.

Residents in the regional centre of Mbale said refugees from Tororo had been fleeing northwards to Mbale.

A senior nurse at Mbale Hospital told Reuters by telephone that dozens of injured people—many with gunshot wounds—had arrived at the hospital this morning, and one had died, apparently from gunshot wounds.

One Ugandan exile telephoned Reuters in Nairobi with a state-

ment which he said was from the Tororo battalion. It said the battalion's officers and men had decided yesterday "to join the masses of the people in Uganda in the struggle against the tyrannical regime of Idi Amin."

"We have taken immediate action," the statement said, and added: "Tororo town and the surrounding area is now under our control."

The statement also urged former Ugandan president Mr. Milton Obote, now living in exile in Tanzania, "to come back and lead the people."

W. Germany upholds worker law giving equal voice in industry

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, March 2 (R) -- The Supreme Court yesterday rejected an attempt by employers to overturn a law giving West German workers an equal voice in industry.

Nine large firms and 29 employers' federations had submitted a plea that the 1976 law, which compels firms employing more than 2,000 people to give an equal number of directorships to workers and shareholders, conflicted with constitutional rights safeguarding property.

The left-liberal federal coalition government headed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt welcomed the court's decision to reject the plea.

It said it cleared the way for industry and trade unions to work together again in the government's programme of "concerted action" aimed at getting the

get at least 50 per cent more lira for their Western currency if they cash it there than they would at the official rates here. They therefore tend to keep much of their savings in the countries where they work.

The measures are also likely to include incentives to foreign investors in the field of Turkey's enormous, but largely-unused tourism potential, the sources say.

But, contrary to the IMF's expressed wish, the new austerity measures are not expected to include a devaluation of the Turkish lira.

The measures, to be announced by government decree and therefore not requiring parliamentary approval, will concentrate on bringing badly needed foreign exchange into Turkey.

Turkey's trade deficit was more than \$2 billion last year and her external debts totalled around \$12 billion. Inflation is at present about 60 per cent.

The government is believed to be asking the Western nations for urgent aid of at least \$1 billion, followed by similar annual sums for five years.

Banking sources say the austerity measures will include a two-tier exchange rate system for remittances from Turkish workers abroad.

At present, these workers can

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World News Briefs

IEA meet may lead to energy conservation

PARIS, March 2 (R) -- Major oil consuming countries are expected to adopt a programme of concerted energy saving today to the effect of shortages and rising prices following the revolution in Iran, informed sources said. The United States said the world's biggest oil importing nations, led by a drive at an International Energy Agency (IEA) meeting here to get industrial nations to save up to five per cent in the amount of oil they use. Sources said a programme was expected to be adopted at the meeting closes today which would leave individual nations to decide what measures to take in order to counteract the production cutback. The U.S. wants voluntary reductions of five per cent and was confident of securing agreement of the 19-nation IEA membership, the sources said. Japan together import over 13 million barrels of oil a day, offered a three per cent cut in its consumption, and other members make the same commitment.

U.S. Senate confirms Warake's success

WASHINGTON, March 2 (R) -- The Senate yesterday confirmed President Carter's nomination of Lieutenant General G. M. Scrimshaw as director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. General Scrimshaw was appointed to the post following the resignation of Mr. Paul Warnke. Warnke had been named a military man to try to defuse opposition to a strategic arms treaty with the Soviet Union and that the post was unfilled for the post. But yesterday's vote followed a lacklustre debate in which no real opposition emerged.

Morocco fines, releases 5 Spanish fishermen

RABAT, March 2 (R) -- Five Spanish trawlers detained at ports have been released and their owners fined for fishing regulations, official Spanish sources said in Rabat today. The trawlers registered in Huelva were detained in Agadir, Morocco, and two registered in Melilla were held at Al-Hoceima, Mediterranean coast after being intercepted by Moroccan guards. The sources said the owners were fined a total of 100,000 francs.

U.S. economic indicators point to recovery

WASHINGTON, March 2 (R) -- Fears of an economic slump in the United States later this year were raised yesterday by a batch of statistics published by the U.S. government. The report showed that its index of leading indicators, which lay out future economic trends, registered a drop in four years last month. The index fell by 1.3 per cent consecutive monthly decline, and economists said the strongest indication yet that a recession was likely to hit the past three or more consecutive months of decline have provided the warning signals that a downturn in the economy lies ahead.

Liberian tanker spilling oil off Crete

ATHENS, March 2 (R) -- The fully laden 15,500-ton tanker Messiniaki Frontis ran aground off the coast of Crete, spilling oil into the sea, the Greek Ministry of Marine said today. The huge vessel reported suffering as it ran aground at Kaloi Limenes, south Crete, a man said. The Messiniaki Frontis was reported to be carrying 95,000 tons of crude oil.

China, U.S. untangle major trade obstacle

PEKING, March 2 (R) -- China and the United States have agreed to settle a major problem hindering expanded trade, the question of Chinese assets frozen in the U.S. and American claims on China, American sources said today.

They said U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal initialled an agreement at Peking airport just before leaving for Shanghai at the end of a nine-day trip to China.

The sources said China had agreed to pay \$80.5 million to American claimants, while the United States would unfreeze some \$80 million in Chinese assets.

"As a result of hard negotiations, we reached a very good agreement on the claims issue," Mr. Blumenthal was quoted as saying.

The initial Chinese payment of \$30 million would be made next Oct. 1, when the U.S. would release all Chinese assets frozen since 1950, the sources said.

The rest of the Chinese payments would then be made in five instalments until October 1984, they said.

Mr. Blumenthal was quoted as saying the agreement had been reached yesterday, but he needed President Carter's approval to initial it.

The agreement now will have to be approved by Congress, which originally froze the Chinese assets

early in the Korean War.

The treasury secretary was quoted as saying the settlement was "a very good and fair arrangement."

The issue had acted as a constraint on expanded commercial and financial contacts between the United States and China.

Because of the American claims, Chinese property—such as ships and aircraft—had been liable for legal seizure on visits to the United States, while U.S. Government credit arrangements could not be offered to the Chinese.

Among the other achievements of the visit were agreement on a framework for a long-term trade pact and the setting up of a joint economic committee at cabinet level to oversee economic relations.

Patriotic Front leader renews pledge to disrupt Rhodesia's April elections

NAIROBI, March 2 (R) -- Black nationalist leader Robert Mugabe said yesterday Rhodesia was appealing for South African troops to police next month's elections but he pledged that his guerrillas would still disrupt the voting.

Mr. Mugabe, co-leader of the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance which is fighting to overthrow the Salisbury government, said: "The

plan appears to be to stagger the election over a period of days so they can be held area by area. Troops will be poured in and people coerced at gun point voting."

He told the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers bi-annual meeting that every able-bodied white Rhodesian man was being called up to provide protection for the elections and said Rhodesia had appealed for South African troop reinforcements.

"But our resolve is to dismantle the enemy's strategy and disrupt the elections completely. We are determined that these elections will fail," he added.

Rhodesian planes have been attacking targets described as guerrilla bases in Zambia, Angola and Mozambique to forestall the promised Patriotic Front assault on the elections called by the bi-

racial government.

Called for universal rejection of the April 20 poll, Mr. Mugabe said: "It should be made clear to the whole international community that the racist regime is no more legal and acceptable now than it was on Nov. 11, 1965, when it assumed independence unilaterally."

Mr. Mugabe appealed for more aid from the OAU and said his forces especially needed anti-aircraft weapons to counter Rhodesia's air power. He said the Patriotic Front had neutralised the Rhodesian infantry and the Salisbury government now relied on its air force.

Mr. Mugabe again alleged that South Africa supplied modern Mirage strike aircraft which were being used by Rhodesia. This is denied by both Rhodesia and South Africa.

East-West troop reduction talks at standstill over 'phantom soldiers' issue

VIENNA, March 2 (R) -- NATO officials said yesterday that most of the 150,000 Warsaw Pact troops "missing" from Communist manpower lists are actually serving with the Soviet and Polish armies.

Arguments over "phantom soldiers" have blocked progress at the East-West conference on troop reductions in Vienna, with the Soviet bloc denying NATO's claim that Communist statistics are heavily understated.

For the first time in the six-year-long negotiations, NATO has now pinpointed where it thinks the missing soldiers are based. Western diplomats said it was hoped the move would break the deadlock on the key data issue.

The 12 NATO delegations said a new analysis by the West of Warsaw Pact official statistics is under active discussion with the seven Communist delegations led by the Soviet Union.

NATO spokesman Mr. Aurelius Fernandez said the breakdown "demonstrated that the discrepancy is overwhelmingly concentrated in certain force categories of certain eastern par-

ticipants."

Mr. Fernandez refused to say where Western intelligence analysts located what NATO calls the "main bulge" of the discrepancy. Other officials said NATO believed most of the uncounted soldiers were in the Polish army and in large combat formations of the Soviet army stationed in Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

NATO says the Soviet Union has about 480,000 ground troops in central Europe, while the Polish army is about 220,000 strong. The Vienna talks are concerned only with central Europe and primarily affect ground forces.

The NATO spokesman said the West had asked the Warsaw Pact for additional data in hopes of ending the squabble over statistics.

Warsaw Pact sources said the Communist alliance would probably present new and more detailed figures soon. So far, Communist statistics have not included breakdowns below large formations.

No progress was reported at yesterday's 195th plenary session of the conference.

By John Elliott

The question of the role that the government ought to play in the running of British industry has been a controversial issue for many years. This controversy has increased during the past decade when the problems of major companies like British Leyland and Rolls Royce facing financial disaster have coincided with the left-wing of the Labour Party demanding a more interventionist state role in industry.

For the past three years the state-funded National Enterprise Board (NEB), created at the end of 1975, has been in the cockpit of this debate. It has been charged with the twin roles of helping "lame ducks" back to financial stability and of using its finances to back profitable investments. At the same time it has tried to build a working relationship with the traditional institutions of the city and with its most outspoken critics, the Conservative Party.

As a result it is now far from the intrusive interventionist vehicle for state ownership envisaged by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, who was secretary for industry when the NEB was set up. Instead it has developed a low profile on most of its activities, although it has recently hit the headlines because of a new parliamentary bill which raises its borrowing limit from £1 billion to £4.5 billion and because of rows about how far

parliament should be able to question its actions.

Since it opened for business on Nov. 20, 1975, the NEB has amassed a portfolio of more than 50 companies. Starting with the "lame ducks" inherited from the government such as BL, Rolls Royce, Ferranti and Alfred Herbert, it has expanded to invest in a wide range of companies, especially small and medium sized concerns.

It has also made a special target of investing in companies in the computer and electronics field, the most well known of which is the £50 million INMOS venture started with American and British microelectronics experts to manufacture micro-chips. About half of the NEB companies are in this broad electronics field and it is now preparing to invest about £40 million in a new office equipment subsidiary called NEXOS using advanced technology.

The NEB's chairman is Sir Leslie Murphy, a former civil servant and merchant banker who took over from the founder-chairman, Lord Ryder, in 1977. He sees the NEB's main work as falling into three main areas.

First there are the "lame duck" companies where the NEB plays a hospitalisation and convalescent role. Here its longest-term problem is BL, now trying to map out a viable future for itself under its new chairman, Mr. Michael Edwards, who used to be a part-

The role of Britain's National Enterprise Board may well become an issue in the General Election this year. Left-wingers want it to spearhead intervention in industry, but if the Conservatives take over it may confine itself merely to helping "lame ducks".

time member of the board of the NEB.

Then there is Alfred Herbert, the machine tool company, which is continuing to face serious financial problems, and Rolls Royce whose future partly depends on the next generation of aero engines that it is developing. Finally there is Ferranti, which last year recovered sufficiently from its troubles to be partly floated back onto the Stock Market, and ICL, which has also done well.

The second area of NEB operations involves plugging an equity gap for both high technology companies and small businesses, especially in the regions. Often the traditional city sources of finance are reluctant to become involved with such potentially risky investments, although the NEB's interest in the area has forced some institutions to be slightly more entrepreneurial.

The third area is helping to develop sectors of British industry which need modernisation. Here the NEB has had little success so far outside the computer and electronics fields, although it is preparing new targets including nuclear equipment and various parts of engineering industries such as hydraulics, pumps and valves, and diesel engines.

Linked with all this is an interest in boosting exports. Companies have been formed to sell computer software (INSAC), and hospital equipment (UMEDCO) abroad. There have also been plans for a large-scale builders' merchants business in Jeddah to sell U.K.-made building components and materials in the Middle East.

But the NEB has also had its failures which have provided its critics, especially in the Conservative Party, with a regular supply of ammunition. First it has

become entangled in a long and acrimonious battle over its entry into the tanning industry through Barrow Hepburn and British Tanning Products. Second it pulled out last year from Hivert, a north-east based air pollution control equipment company. It then sold a south-coast clock maker which made Parliament's Big Ben, called Thwaites and Reed, at a loss of £450,000. A receiver has also been appointed at Power Dynamics, a hydraulic tube-bending machinery company in which the NEB has a one-third stake.

On the other hand, it successfully sold its interest in Reed and Smith, papermakers, for £750,000 in December 1977; and has also sold an interest in Picraft, a mining-equipment company, to help form a viable independent group.

As a result of these and other activities, the NEB made pre-tax profits of £23.1 million during the first half of 1978. Of this, £2.4 million came from the NEB's own investments.

Now it has almost used up the £1 billion it was originally given under the Industry Act in 1975. It is for this reason that a new industry bill is now before Parliament to raise the limit of its borrowings from £1 billion to £4.5 billion. The precise amount of money it has to spend in any one year is fixed by the annual Public Expenditure White Paper and currently stands at an annual £275 million. It is also

required to make certain return on its capital by 1980-81, as Leyland and Rolls are accounted for lower target rates.

What the NEB to prove its worth pines in which it city institutions to go into partnership to correct its image, sometimes regarded as "easy touch" and to other forms of aid. It also has to justify its existence by showing that it is a successful investment.

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